

spindle portion, a plastic stirrer, and a coupling for releasably coupling the plastic stirrer to the metal upper spindle portion in a position wherein the stirrer extends down into a respective vessel,

10        said plastic stirrer being removable from said coupling after a mixing operation to permit replacement of the stirrer.

164. A parallel reactor as set forth in claim 163 wherein said stirrer is of a chemically resistant plastic material and comprises a shaft and mixing blade on the shaft.

165. A parallel reactor as set forth in claim 164 wherein said coupling is attached to the upper spindle portion, and wherein said shaft of the stirrer has a quick-connect/disconnect element thereon adapted for releasable engagement with said  
5        coupling.

166. A parallel reactor as set forth in claim 165 wherein said quick-connect/disconnect element comprises a circumferential groove around said shaft for receiving one or more detents in the coupling.

167. A parallel reactor as set forth in claim 163 further comprising a drive system for rotating the multi-piece spindles to mix the contents of the vessels.

168. A parallel reactor as set forth in claim 167 wherein said drive system comprises a drive mechanism located external to

the vessels, and magnetic feed through devices for magnetically  
coupling the drive mechanism to the upper spindle portions of the  
multi-piece spindles.

169. A parallel reactor as set forth in claim 168 wherein  
said drive mechanism comprises a gear train for rotating each  
magnetic feed through device, and a motor for rotating gears of  
the gear train to effect conjoint rotation of the multi-piece  
spindles at speeds up to 3000 rpm.

170. A parallel reactor as set forth in claim 169 wherein  
each vessel has as volume of less than about 500 ml.

171. Plastic stirrers for use in stirring reaction mixtures  
in a parallel reactor, said reactor comprising vessels for  
containing said reaction mixtures, metal spindle portions  
associated with the vessels, couplings on the metal spindle  
portions for releasably coupling the plastic stirrers to the  
spindle portions in positions wherein the stirrers extend down  
into the vessels, and a drive system for rotating the metal  
spindle portions and the plastic stirrers coupled thereto thereby  
to mix the contents of the vessels, each plastic stirrer  
comprising a shaft and a mixing blade on the shaft, said shaft  
having a quick-connect/disconnect element thereon adapted for  
engagement with said coupling for releasably coupling the plastic  
stirrer to the metal spindle portion for rotation therewith  
whereby upon completion of a mixing operation the plastic stirrer  
is adapted to be disconnected from said coupling and replaced by  
a new plastic stirrer.

172. Plastic stirrers as set forth in claim 171 wherein said quick-connect/disconnect element comprises a circumferential groove in said shaft adapted for receiving one or more detents in the coupling.

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173. Plastic stirrers as set forth in claim 172 wherein said quick-connect/disconnect element comprises a pin on said shaft receivable in a bayonet slot in said coupling.

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174. Plastic stirrers as set forth in claim 171 wherein each stirrer is sized for reception in a vessel having a volume of less than 500 ml.

175. Plastic stirrers as set forth in claim 174 wherein each stirrer is sized for reception in a vessel having a volume of less than 20 ml.

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REMARKS

Applicants have elected to cancel original claims 1-162 solely for the purpose of prosecuting new claims in this divisional application. These new claims better encompass the full scope and breadth of certain aspects of the present invention, notwithstanding that applicants' belief that the original claims directed to these aspects would have been allowable. It is submitted, therefore, that no claims have been narrowed within the meaning of *Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co.*